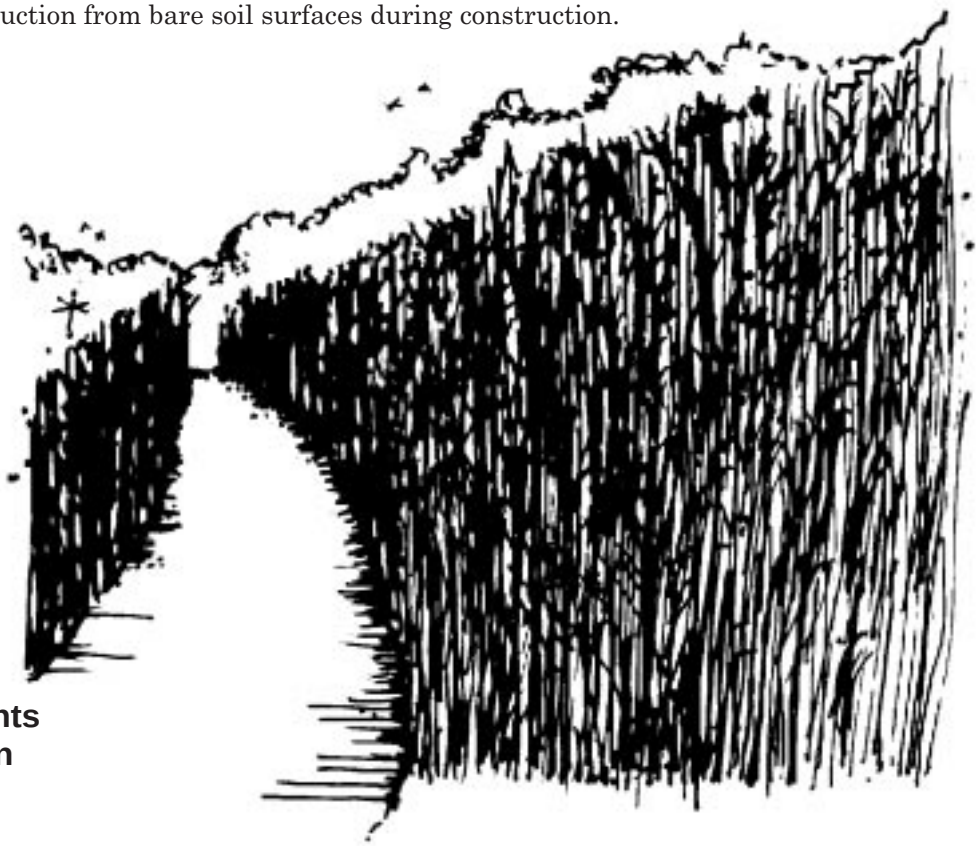
PRIMARY USE: Erosion reduction.
ADDITIONAL USES: Minimize runoff and dust/mud at the site.

TEMPORARY SEEDING

What is it? Planting of rapidly growing annual grasses, small grains, or legumes on disturbed areas.

Purpose

To temporarily stabilize denuded areas that will not be brought to final grade for a period of more than 30 working days. Temporary seeding controls runoff and erosion until permanent vegetation or other erosion control measures can be established. In addition, it provides residue for soil protection and seedbed preparation and reduces problems of mud and dust production from bare soil surfaces during construction.



Rapidly Growing Plants for Soil Stabilization Perspective View

Limitations

Temporary seeding provides protection for no more than one year, during which time permanent stabilization should be initiated.

Materials

Grass, legume, or grain seed and appropriate equipment.

Installation

Complete grading before preparing seedbeds and install all necessary erosion control practices, such as dikes, waterways and basins. Minimize steep slopes because they make seedbed preparation difficult and increase the erosion hazard. If soils become compacted during grading, loosen them to a depth of 6 - 8 in (152 - 203 mm) using a ripper, harrow, or chisel plow. Adequately prepare the seed bed. A good seedbed is well-pulverized, loose, and uniform.

Source: NRCS Planning and Design Manual, NRCS.

TEMPORARY SEEDING

Installation Guidelines Continued:

Where hydroseeding methods are used, the surface may be left with a more irregular surface of large clods and stones. Apply lime as required. Soils with a pH of 6 or higher need not be limed. Base application rates on soil tests. If rainfall causes the surface to become sealed or crusted, loosen it just prior to seeding by disking, raking, harrowing, or other suitable methods.

Groove or furrow slopes steeper than 3:1 on the contour before seeding. Select an appropriate seeding species or mixture (many commercial mixes are available). Evenly apply seed using a cyclone seeder (broadcast), drill, cultipacker seeder, or hydroseeder. Use seeding rates given by the supplier. Small grains should be planted no more than 1 in (25 mm) deep, and grasses and legumes no more than 1/ 2 in (13 mm). Broadcast seed must be covered by raking or chain dragging, and then lightly firmed with a roller or cultipacker.

Hydroseeded mixtures should include a wood fiber (cellulose) mulch. Mulching is necessary when seeding in fall for winter cover; on slopes steeper than 3:1, during excessively hot or dry weather, on adverse soils (shallow, rocky, or high in clay or sandy), and on areas receiving concentrated flow. If the area to be mulched is subject to concentrated waterflow, as in channels, anchor mulch with netting.